

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 FBIE-00 SY-05 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3025

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ASEC, AR

SUBJECT: INTERNAL SECURITY COUNCIL AND NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL

REF: BA 6119

1. RESPONDING TO THE FORMOSA ATTACK OF OCTOBER 5, INTERIM PRESIDENT ITALO LUDER ISSUED EXECUTIVE DECREE 2.770/75 LAST NIGHT (OCTOBER 6) CREATING THE INTERNAL SECURITY COUNCIL (CSI) AS THE CENTRAL ORGAN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST SUBVERSION. THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL (CDN) PROPOSED LAST WEEK WAS ALSO PROMULGATED BY THE SAME DECREE.

2. THE INTERNAL SECURITY COUNCIL WILL BE COMPOSED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATION, ALL CABINET MEMBERS, AND THE THREE CINCS. IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DIRECTION OF NATIONAL ANTI-SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AND ALL TASKS THE PRESIDENT MAY DIRECT TO THIS END.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL IS MINISTER OF DEFENSE, THE THREE COMMANDERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, AND THE JOINT STAFF. THE CDN WILL BE THE ACTION ARM OF NEW ANTI-SUBVERSIVE AGENCY (CSI). THE CDN HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADVISING THE PRESIDENT

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AND PROPOSING MEASURES RELATED TO THE TERRORIST PROBLEM. IT

ALSO HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COORDINATION OF NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES AS WELL AS PLANNING AND CONDUCTING THE OPERATIONS OF THE MILITARY, SECURITY AND POLICE FORCES IN ALL ANTI-SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES.

4. THE PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INFORMATION, THE FEDERAL POLICE, AND THE NATIONAL PENAL SERVICE ARE SUBORDINATE TO AND RESPONSIBLE TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL IN THE ANTI-SUBVERSION FIGHT ACCORDING TO THE DECREE.

5. COMMENT: AFTER ALMOST 18 MONTHS OF INDECISIVE BACKING AND FILLING, THE GOA HAS FINALLY SET UP A UNIFIED APPROACH TO DEAL WITH THE SUBVERSIVE PROBLEM. IT IS CLEAR THAT EVENTS IN FORMOSA WERE THE CATALYST WHICH CAUSED THE PROMULGATION OF THE ANTI-SUBVERSIVE DECREE ISSUED YESTERDAY. HOWEVER, AFTER ALMOST TWO YEARS OF NEAR SILENCE ON THE ISSUE, MEDIA COMMENTATORS FINALLY LEVELED GUNS ON GOA'S LEISURELY APPROACH TO COMBATTING TERRORISM. ON POPULAR CHANNEL 11 POLITICAL TALK SHOW, BERNARDO NEUSTADT, HIGHLY RESPECTED COMMENTATOR, WAS HARSHLY CRITICAL OF FACT THAT IT TOOK OVER HALF A DOZEN MAJOR ATTACKS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN LAST TWO YEARS FOR GOA TO ACT. MORE POINTEDLY, NEUSTADT QUESTIONED WHETHER IN ITS PRESENT WEAKENED STATE, BESET WITH INTERNAL POLITICAL JOCKEYING, GOA COULD NOW MAKE GOOD ON ITS PROMISED EFFORTS TO CRACK DOWN ON SUBVERSION. OCTOBER 7 LA OPINION ECHOS NEUSTADT'S CRITICISMS AND GOES ON TO CASTIGATE GOVERNMENT IN STRONG TERMS FOR ENDLESS REPETITION OF FACT THAT TERRORISM IS WORLDWIDE PROBLEM AND ITS COMPLACENT FEELING IT COULDN'T HAPPEN HERE. CLEARLY, IN TAKING LATEST STEP, GOA BEING PRESSURED BY PUBLIC OPINION WHICH NOW APPEARS TO BE AHEAD OF GOVERNMENT IN RECOGNITION OF NECESSITY FOR ENERGETIC EFFORTS TO END TERRORIST DEPRECATIONS.
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